

# Bolton, Kerry Child Minding

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 6 May 2022

**Service provided by:**

**Service provider number:**  
SP2004938413

**Care service number:**  
CS2003051455

## Introduction

Mrs Bolton is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of seven children at any one time under the age of 16, of whom no more than three are not yet attending primary school and of whom no more than one is under 12 months. Numbers are inclusive of children of the childminder's family.

From 1 August 2021 until 30 August 2022 (as identified in the variation request dated April 2021) one additional named child not yet attending primary school may be cared for on a Wednesday term time only. Should any child leave the service or no longer require care before 30 August 2022 this element of the condition will cease with immediate effect.

Overnight care is not provided and minded children cannot be care for by persons not mentioned on the registration certificate. The childminder's home is situated in a residential area close to a school and play park.

## What we did during our inspection

This was an unannounced inspection which took place on 28 April 2022 between 11:30 and 14:00. Two inspectors carried out the inspection. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, registration and complaints information, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered throughout the inspection year.

To inform our evaluation we:

- spoke with two parents of three children using the service
- spoke with the childminder
- observed practice and daily life
- reviewed documents.

## Views of people using the service

Two parents replied to our request for feedback by email.

## Self assessment

This was not applicable at this inspection.

## What the service did well

The childminder provided a welcoming, warm, nurturing service. The childminder knew the children and their individual needs well. They provided a good variety of experiences and resources to suit the age range of the children attending the service. This included involving and supporting children to manage risk as they became more independent in outdoor play.

The childminder had established positive relationships with parents. Communication was effective and meaningful so that families shared in their child's care and development. The childminder continued to improve the detail included in observations so that next steps in learning and development were clear.

## What the service could do better

We suggested that the childminder formalised self-evaluation by documenting what they planned to do, to benefit children's experiences and outcomes and what impact they would see on the children's learning and development.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	5 - Very Good
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

## Quality of care and support

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder's warm and caring approach had helped children to form secure relationships with her, making them feel safe. We saw that children were happy, relaxed and assured in the presence of the childminder. Children's emotions were responded to respectfully, and with nurturing care ensuring that their emotional and physical needs were met.

Consistency of care for children was supported by personal plans which included information such as health needs, care routines, and likes/dislikes. Parents told us they were asked to share information for the plans prior to their child joining the service. One parent told us the childminder had: "the children's best interest in mind at all times, she continually asks for updates on children's personal plans and or if anything has changed within my child's circumstances."

The childminder had a good understanding of 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) and the SHANARRI (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included) wellbeing indicators, using these to assist with monitoring and recording children's development. Parents told us that the childminder had a shared approach that helped them to feel fully involved in their child's care and learning.

The childminder encouraged outdoor play by having access from the playroom directly into a secure, enclosed back garden. Older children were also able to safely access a nearby grassy area.

Suitable arrangements were in place for snacks and meals. Children sat together at the table in the kitchen/diner to eat lunches which were provided by parents. The childminder provided fruit and water, demonstrating how the risk of choking was minimised by chopping fruit to appropriate sized pieces for a baby. Lunch was a calm and pleasant experience, well supported by the childminder to promote good eating habits and ensure children were included in conversation.

We were satisfied that the service had appropriate infection control procedures in place to support a safe environment for children. These included children being supported to wash their hands well, good ventilation of the premises and outdoor play.

The childminder had a good understanding of child protection, having completed training so that their knowledge of safeguarding children remained up to date. She was also familiar with the purpose and use of chronologies, as a tool for the purposes of monitoring and assessment to help children with the right support at the right time.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of environment

## Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

Children benefited from being cared for in a safe, clean and homely environment. A downstairs bathroom was used for nappy changing/toileting with disposable gloves and aprons readily available to help reduce the potential for infection. It also meant that handwashing was easily facilitated, promoting good hygiene practice. A travel cot was set up if required in the playroom (which was not used by older children during school hours) to enable a younger child to have a safe, calm and uninterrupted sleep.

The designated playroom was equipped with a walled storage unit that had open shelving and boxes. Children were able to direct their learning and follow interests by selecting from a variety of accessible resources. These included construction, pencils/pens and paper, puzzles and games. Books were displayed on a shelf.

The childminder used a shed in the garden to store some resources. This allowed resources to be selected according to the children's current interests. The children were able to extend their play and learning by asking for other items too. We discussed with the childminder the provision of more open ended and natural resources, to extend and increase opportunities for creative and imaginative play.

There was a comfy sofa to sit on and sufficient floor space for play. A baby was supported by the childminder to continue to develop pre-walking skills such as cruising and pulling themselves up using the sofa.

The childminder recognised the benefits of outdoor play in the fresh air to support children's health, wellbeing and development. A secure, tidy, slabbed back garden was accessible directly from the playroom. Children were able to access ride on toys and a slide. A child height storage box provided easy access for children to select a variety of toys to enhance their play outdoors.

Older children were able to access a grassy area beyond the garden. The children had contributed to the risk assessment for using this area promoting their understanding of managing risk in order to play safely. A parent told us: "the children have access to play outside in (the childminder's) garden but she also takes walks with the children everyday, which has helped my child learn a lot about safety when out and about."

The childminder kept the premises and activities under regular review to assess risk. There were a range of risk assessments in place to support the children's health, safety and wellbeing for a variety of situations.

## Requirements

**Number of requirements:** 0

## Recommendations

**Number of recommendations:** 0

**Grade:** 5 - very good

## Quality of staffing

This quality theme was not assessed.

## Quality of management and leadership

### Findings from the inspection

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children/people, therefore, we evaluated this key question as very good.

The childminder had attended a range of training opportunities, mostly online. First aid and child protection training were up to date and certificates were displayed in the playroom. The childminder demonstrated a competent understanding of her responsibilities and the procedures around child protection.

Paperwork was comprehensive, well organised and up to date. There were a range of policies in place, in line with current guidance, which supported children to be secure, protected and safe. These documents were shared with parents joining the service to support their understanding of what they could expect from the service. When these were updated, the parents were notified and the documents made available to them for review. We suggested to the childminder that the child protection policy may benefit from having contact numbers for the social work office and child protection unit included. This would ensure they were to hand should a concern arise.

The childminder was proactive in seeking training that corresponded to the needs of the children in her care. Children's development, learning and individual needs were well supported by the childminder who actively sought training and support to develop particular skills and knowledge. We discussed with the childminder quality assurance of training as a next step. We suggested evaluating the impact of any training and the difference it had made to the children, the service and to the childminder's approach.

Parental engagement opportunities ensured that parents were involved in their child's ongoing learning and development. This enabled parents to support and continue learning at home if they wished. The childminder shared a weekly email update, including photos to parents of children who attended the service for a number of hours each week. For children attending for shorter periods of time, verbal feedback was given to parents when they were picked up.

A closed Facebook page was used to send parents general information and to share pictures of the children busily involved in activities. Parents were asked to like or comment to show the childminder that they had read important information.

Responses from parents were positive; parents told us that: "they were confident leaving their children in the childminder's care" and one described her service as: "like a second home," for their children.

### Requirements

**Number of requirements: 0**

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Grade: 5 - very good

**What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection**

## Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

**What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection**

## Previous recommendations

There are no outstanding recommendations.

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Enforcement

No enforcement action has been taken against this care service since the last inspection.

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings	
7 Apr 2016	Unannounced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed 5 - Very good
10 Apr 2015	3	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good Not assessed 3 - Adequate
3 May 2011	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
28 May 2010	Announced	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	5 - Very good 5 - Very good Not assessed Not assessed
22 Apr 2009	Announced (short notice)	Care and support Environment Staffing Management and leadership	4 - Good 4 - Good 5 - Very good Not assessed



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